

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 6, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

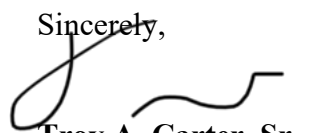
As you know, the Louisiana 2nd Congressional District and much of Southeast Louisiana has been devastated by Hurricane Ida. I want to thank you for visiting the area to see that damage for yourself. I also want to thank you for your willingness to commit the full resources of the federal government to help Louisiana recover.

During your visit, we discussed an important issue that I'd like to highlight. For many in my district and this region, Hurricane Ida is not their first time getting involved with the federal disaster recovery process. In fact, many of the areas most affected by Ida in my district were also severely affected by Hurricane Isaac in 2012. As a result, whether it be from Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Isaac, or several other flooding events, many of my constituents have loans or debts from federal programs or from state-run, federally-financed programs that they participated in to rebuild homes and restart businesses.

With many of these same areas facing a second recovery in less than a decade, people now face the choice of whether to rebuild or not. As we discussed on Friday, I believe people need the chance to rebuild from this disaster as quickly as possible. It can be hard to make this decision with debts still owed from previous disasters. I request that federal agencies review any outstanding debts that were caused by aid taken out during previous natural disasters and forgive those debts for any resident of a parish with a Major Disaster Declaration from Hurricane Ida. This should include but is not limited to SBA Disaster Loans, recoupment of FEMA aid, and recoupment of CDBG awards.

After disasters, people look for any lifeline they can grab to rebuild their lives. I don't believe people who used a lifeline should be punished when a new disaster strikes. I believe forgiving all debt from past disasters is one way to ensure that the recovery communities face after Hurricane Ida truly reaches everyone.

Sincerely,


Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress